

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05510 211813Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9473

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5510

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR, US

SUBJ: LEVIYEV CASE AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 0468 (B) STATE 32862

1. CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL YOUNGER HAS TOLD US THAT HE HAS BEEN INFORMED BY SOVIET LEGAL OFFICIALS, AND SPECIFICALLY BY RSFSR SUPREME COURT CHARIMAN ORLOV, THAT LEVIYEV WILL NOT RPT NOT BE EXECUTED. YOUNGER SAID THAT HE NEVER RAISED LEVIYEV CASE HIMSELF BUT THAT IT CAME UP IN CONTEXT OF QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM BY SOVIETS ON SUBJECT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

2. YOUNGER, WHO HIMSELF FAVORS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BUT ONLY FOR AGGRAVATED MURDER, SAID ALL SOVIET OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE DISCUSSED MATTER, INCLUDING USSR SUPREME COURT CHARIMAN SMIRNOV, CLAIMED THAT RECENT AND PRESENT SOVIET PRACTICE CONFORMED WITH THIS VIEW AND THAT SOVIET LAWS WOULD SOON BE AMENDED SO AS ALSO TO CONFORM.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOVIETS GAVE YOUNGER MORE BENIGN PICTURE OF SOVIET PRACTICE THAN FACTS JUSTIFY, ABOVE DOES PROVIDE INTERESTING INDICATION OF DIRECTION OF SOVIET JUDICIAL THOUGHT ON SUBJECT. YOUNGER, WHO WAS WELL TREATED AND WIDELY RECEIVED
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05510 211813Z

BY SOVIET OFFICIALDOM, CAME ACROSS AS EXTREMELY

EFFECTIVE SPOKESMAN FOR U.S. JUDICIAL SYSTEM.
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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